

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09062 221517Z
ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7031

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 09062

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, US, IS, EG
SUBJECT: FONMIN KAMEL'S QUERY RE CARTER/BEGIN TALKS
REF: CAIRO 8996

1. WHEN MEETING WITH FONMIN KAMEL TODAY, HE ASKED IF I HAD ANY INFORMATION ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S TALKS WITH PRIMIN BEGIN. I REMINDED HIM THAT THESE TALKS HAD BEGUN ONLY YESTERDAY AND ARE SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE TODAY. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WAS NOT SURPRISING THAT I HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY REPORT.

2. KAMEL EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE COULD PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT TO SADAT AND TO HIM PRIOR TO EGYPTIAN NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE SATURDAY, MARCH 25. PURPOSE OF UPCOMING NSC MEETING IS TO DISCUSS ISRAELI INVASION OF SOUTH LEBANON AND HOW IT AFFECTS ME PEACE PROSPECTS. ANYTHING THAT WE COULD PROVIDE ABOUT WASHINGTON TALKS WOULD BE HELPFUL.

3. KAMEL ALSO NOTED THAT HE HAD HEARD ON VOA PRESIDENT CARTER'S WELCOMING REMARKS TO BEGIN. HE HAD BEEN IN THE COMPANY OF SOME FRIENDS, ALL OF WHOM HAD EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER SHOULD HAVE BLAMED
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THE PALESTINIAN TERRORIST ATTACK FOR THE HEAVY CASUALTIES IN SOUTH LEBANON. HE, KAMEL, HAD ALSO BEEN SURPRISED AT THIS COMMENT, BUT HE RECOGNIZED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS THE BEST JUDGE OF HOW BEGIN SHOULD PUBLICLY BE HANDLED. SO FAR AS KAMEL WAS CONCERNED, THE ESSENTIAL THING IS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER PRESS BEGIN FOR A MODIFICATION OF THE ISRAELI POSITION ON THE THREE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES.

EILTS

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Message Attributes

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